




National Guard Bureau
Office of Legislative Liaison



FY16 Defense Appropriations

*Summary of the House (H.R. 2685) Fiscal Year 2016 Defense
Appropriations Bills*

As of 8 June 2015

Bills Status

	Passed in Committee	Passed in Chamber	Conference Committee Report	Final Passage	Signed into Law
House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> June 2, 2015				
Senate					

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Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	- 1 -
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OVERVIEW.....	- 2 -
AIR NATIONAL GUARD OVERVIEW.....	- 2 -
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL.....	- 3 -
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL (OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS)	- 3 -
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	- 4 -
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE (OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS)	- 5 -
AIR NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL	- 6 -
AIR NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL (OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS).....	- 6 -
AIR NATIONAL GUARD OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE.....	- 7 -
AIR NATIONAL GUARD OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE (OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS)	- 7 -
BILL TEXT:.....	- 8 -
NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT	- 8 -
ADDITIONAL FUNDING.....	- 9 -
HOUSE REPORT	- 9 -

Executive Summary

This guide provides a short summary and analysis of the many provisions in the fiscal year 2016 defense spending bills. To obtain a complete understanding of any particular provision, users are encouraged to review the actual legislative language. Once they are published, the bills and accompanying reports will be available on the NGB-LL web page:

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/Leadership/JointStaff/PersonalStaff/LegislativeLiaison.aspx>

Status:

The House Appropriations Committee's Defense spending bill for fiscal year 2016 allocates \$578.6 billion in discretionary funding which is \$800 million above the President's Budget Request. The bill also provides \$88.4 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations for the Department of Defense.

Highlights:

- The bill provides \$1.5 billion in OCO for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account, with \$500 million going to each the ARNG and ANG.
- The bill prohibits the transfer or divestment of ARNG Apaches until the enactment of the FY16 NDAA and requires the Secretary of the Army shall ensure the continuing readiness of the AH-64 Apache aircraft and ensure the training of the crews of such aircraft during fiscal year 2016, including the allocation of funds for operation and maintenance and personnel connected with such aircraft.
- The bill prohibits funding to be used to reduce the authorized positions for military technicians (dual status) of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve and Air Force Reserve for the purpose of applying any administratively imposed civilian personnel ceiling, freeze, or reduction on military technicians (dual status), unless such reductions are a direct result of a reduction in military force structure.
- None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to reduce the end strength levels for the Army National Guard of the United States below the levels specified for the Army National Guard of the United States in subtitle B of title IV of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-329): Provided, That this section shall continue in effect through the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2016.
- The bill includes \$7 million for the State Partnership Program spread across ARNG and ANG accounts.
- The bill includes an additional \$147.8 million for National Guard Counterdrug Program.

National Guard Accounts Overview

Army National Guard Overview

(All Dollars in Thousands)

Army National Guard	FY16 President's Budget Request	HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	SAC Mark	Delta from Request	Final Bill	Delta from Request
ARNG Personnel	\$7,942,132	\$7,980,413	+\$38,281				
ARNG Personnel OCO	\$166,015	\$166,015	\$0				
ARNG O&M	\$6,717,977	\$6,731,119	+\$13,142				
ARNG O&M OCO	\$60,845	\$160,845	\$100,000				
NGREA	-	\$500,000	\$500,000				

Air National Guard Overview

(All Dollars in Thousands)

Air National Guard	FY16 President's Budget Request	HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	SAC Mark	Delta from Request	Final Bill	Delta from Request
ANG Personnel	\$3,222,551	\$3,202,010	-\$20,541				
ANG Personnel OCO	\$2,828	\$2,828	\$0				
ANG O&M	\$6,956,210	\$6,605,400	-\$350,810				
ANG O&M OCO	\$19,900	\$225,350	\$205,450				
NGREA	-	\$500,000	\$500,000				



Defense Appropriations

Army National Guard

Army National Guard Personnel

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ARNG Personnel Appropriation	FY16 President's Budget Request	HAC-D Mark	SAC Mark	Final Bill
PAY GROUP A TRAINING (15 DAYS & DRILLS 24/48) ¹	\$2,606,347	\$2,604,417		
PAY GROUP F TRAINING (RECRUITS)	\$526,051	\$526,051		
PAY GROUP P TRAINING (PIPELINE RECRUITS)	\$41,411	\$41,411		
SCHOOL TRAINING	\$471,330	\$471,330		
SPECIAL TRAINING ²	\$571,720	\$575,020		
ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT	\$3,690,407	\$3,690,407		
EDUCATION BENEFITS	\$34,866	\$34,866		
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)				
UNDISTRIBUTED ADJUSTMENT ^{3,4}	-	+\$36,911		
TOTAL, ARNG PERSONNEL	\$7,942,132	\$7,980,413		

- 1.) Annual Training and Inactive Duty Training projected under execution for officers and enlisted (-\$1,930)
- 2.) Program increase for State Partnership Program (\$3,300)
- 3.) Unobligated/Unexpended balances (-\$7,080)
- 4.) Restore End Strength (\$93,991)

Army National Guard Personnel (Overseas Contingency Operations)

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ARNG Personnel (OCO) Appropriation	FY16 President's Budget Request	HAC-D Mark	SAC Mark	Final Bill
PAY GROUP A TRAINING (15 DAYS & DRILLS 24/48) ¹	\$34,199	\$34,199		
SCHOOL TRAINING	\$2,780	\$2,780		
SPECIAL TRAINING	\$119,247	\$119,247		
ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT	\$9,789	\$9,789		
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)	\$166,015	\$166,015		
TOTAL, ARNG PERSONNEL (OCO)	\$166,015	\$166,015		

Army National Guard Operations & Maintenance

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ARNG O&M Appropriation	FY16 President's Budget Request	HAC-D Mark	SAC Mark	Final Bill
MANEUVER UNITS ¹	\$709,433	\$708,433		
MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	\$167,324	\$167,324		
ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE ²	\$741,327	\$731,527		
THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	\$88,775	\$88,775		
LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$32,130	\$32,130		
AVIATION ASSETS	\$943,609	\$943,609		
FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT ^{3,4,5}	\$703,137	\$676,037		
LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS ⁶	\$84,066	\$71,466		
LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE	\$166,848	\$166,848		
BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT ^{7,8}	\$1,022,970	\$996,720		
FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION, & MODERNIZATION ⁹	\$673,680	\$761,258		
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HQ ^{10,11}	\$954,574	\$920,178		
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY ONE (BAC-01)	\$6,287,873	\$6,264,305		
SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	\$6,570	\$6,570		
ADMINISTRATION ^{12,13,14}	\$59,629	\$56,429		
SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	\$68,452	\$68,452		
MANPOWER MANAGEMENT	\$8,841	\$8,841		
RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	\$283,670	\$272,170		
OTHER CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT AND REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT ¹⁵	\$2,942	\$2,942		
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY FOUR (BAC-04)	\$430,140	\$415,404		
OVERESTIMATION OF CIVILIAN FTE TARGETS		-\$32,700		
RESTORE END STRENGTH		\$84,110		
TOTAL, ARNG O&M	\$6,717,977	\$6,731,119		

- 1.) Printing – unjustified program growth (-\$1,000)
- 2.) Management and professional support services – unjustified program growth (-\$9,800)
- 3.) Remove one-time fiscal year 2015 funding increase (-\$1,700)
- 4.) Unjustified program growth (-\$5,400)
- 5.) Management and Professional Support Services – unjustified program growth (\$-20,000)
- 6.) Remove one-time fiscal year 2015 increase for training- Distributed Learning Program (-\$12,600)
- 7.) Remove one-time fiscal year 2015 funding increase (-8,250)
- 8.) Contract services – unjustified program growth (-\$18,000)
- 9.) Program increase (\$87,578)
- 10.) Fully fund Military Funeral Honors Program (\$604)
- 11.) Contract Services – unjustified program growth (-\$35,000)
- 12.) Supplies and Materials – unjustified program growth (-3,300)
- 13.) Transportation and Public Affairs – unjustified program growth (-900)
- 14.) State Partnership Program increase (\$1,000)
- 15.) Army Marketing Program unjustified program growth (-11,500)

Army National Guard Operations & Maintenance (Overseas Contingency Operations)**(All Dollars in Thousands)**

ARNG O&M (OCO) Appropriation	FY16 President's Budget Request	HAC-D Mark	SAC Mark	Final Bill
MANEUVER UNITS	\$1,984	\$1,984		
ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	\$4,671	\$4,671		
AVIATION ASSETS	\$15,980	\$15,980		
FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$12,867	\$12,867		
BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$23,134	\$23,134		
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS	\$1,426	\$1,426		
ADMINISTRATION	\$783	\$783		
RESTORE READINESS	-	\$100,000		
TOTAL, ARNG O&M (OCO)	\$60,845	\$160,845		



Air National Guard

Air National Guard Personnel

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ANG Personnel Appropriation	FY16 President's Budget Request	HAC-D Mark	SAC Mark	Final Bill
PAY GROUP A TRAINING (15 DAYS & DRILLS 24/48) ¹	\$925,442	\$900,442		
PAY GROUP F TRAINING (RECRUITS) ²	\$105,653	\$150,653		
PAY GROUP P TRAINING (PIPELINE RECRUITS) ^{3,4}	\$8,596	\$8,596		
SCHOOL TRAINING	\$290,988	\$349,988		
SPECIAL TRAINING	\$182,511	\$163,511		
ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT ^{5,6}	\$1,694,558	\$1,673,137		
EDUCATION BENEFITS	\$14,803	\$14,803		
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)				
UNDISTRIBUTED ADJUSTMENT	-	-\$14,120		
TOTAL ANG PERSONNEL	\$3,222,551	\$3,202,010		

- 1.) Air National Guard identified transfer (-25,000)
- 2.) Air National Guard unfunded requirement (\$59,000)
- 3.) Air National Guard identified transfer (-20,000)
- 4.) \$1M increase for State Partnership Program
- 5.) Prior Service Enlistment Bonus excess to requirement (-\$7,421)
- 6.) Air National Guard identified transfer (-14,000)

Air National Guard Personnel (Overseas Contingency Operations)

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ANG Personnel (OCO) Appropriation	FY16 President's Budget Request	HAC-D Mark	SAC Mark	Final Bill
SPECIAL TRAINING	\$2,828	\$2,828		
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)	\$2,828	\$2,828		
TOTAL ANG PERSONNEL (OCO)	\$2,828	\$2,828		

Air National Guard Operations & Maintenance

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ANG O&M Appropriation	FY16 President's Budget Request	HAC-D Mark	SAC Mark	Final Bill
AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS ^{1, 2,3,4,5,6}	\$3,526,471	\$3,231,764		
MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS ⁷	\$740,779	\$742,479		
DEPOT MAINTENANCE ^{8,9}	\$1,763,859	\$1,745,214		
FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION ¹⁰	\$288,786	\$326,328		
BASE OPERATING SUPPORT ¹¹	\$582,037	\$556,937		
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY ONE (BAC-01)	\$6,901,932	\$6,602,722		
ADMINISTRATION	\$23,626	\$23,626		
RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	\$30,652	\$30,652		
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY FOUR (BAC-04)	\$54,278	\$54,278		
LOWER THAN BUDGETED CIVILIAN COMPENSATION	-	-\$51,600		
TOTAL, ANG O&M	\$6,956,210	\$6,605,400		

- 1.) Remove one-time fiscal year 2015 increase (-\$33,267)
- 2.) Air National Guard identified excess to requirement (-\$26,600)
- 3.) Justification does not match summary of price and program changes for civilian pay program (-\$6,800)
- 4.) DISN pricing requested as program growth (-\$1,300)
- 5.) Projected under execution (-\$79,000)
- 6.) A-10 – transfer to title IX (-147,740)
- 7.) State Partnership Program increase (\$1,700)
- 8.) Remove one time fiscal year 2015 increase (-\$3,155)
- 9.) A-10 transfer to title IX (-15,490)
- 10.) Program increase (\$37,542)
- 11.) IT Projects funded in fiscal year 2015 (-\$25,100)

Air National Guard Operations & Maintenance (Overseas Contingency Operations)

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ANG O&M (OCO) Appropriation	FY16 President's Budget Request	HAC-D Mark	SAC Mark	Final Bill
AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS ^{1,2}	\$0	\$154,760		
MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	\$19,900	\$19,900		
DEPOT MAINTENANCE ^{3,4}	\$0	\$50,690		
TOTAL ANG O&M (OCO)	\$19,900	\$225,350		

- 1.) A-10 transfer from title II (\$147,740)
- 2.) Restore A-10 force Structure (\$7,020)
- 3.) A-10 transfer from title II (\$15,490)
- 4.) Restore A-10 force structure (\$35,200)

BILL TEXT:

SEC. 8120: Prohibits the use of funds to divest, retire, transfer, or place in storage or on backup aircraft inventory status, or prepare to divest, retire, transfer, or place in storage or on backup aircraft inventory status, any A-10 aircraft, or to disestablish any units of the active or reserve component associated with such aircraft.

Section 8041: prohibits funds made available in this Act from being used to reduce authorized positions for military technicians (dual status) of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, and Air Force Reserve unless such reductions are a direct result of a reduction in military force structure

Section 8043: provides for reimbursement to the National Guard and Reserve when members of the National Guard and Reserve provide intelligence or counterintelligence support to the combatant commands, defense agencies, and joint intelligence activities.

Section 8052: provides conditions for the use of equipment of the National Guard Distance Learning Project on a space-available, reimbursable basis.

Section 8061: provides for the use of National Guard personnel to support ground-based elements of the National Ballistic Missile Defense System.

Section 8063: provides for a waiver by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau or his designee for all or part of consideration in cases of personal property leases of less than one year.

Section 8077: provides that at the time members of reserve components of the Armed Forces are called or ordered to active duty, each member shall be notified in writing of the expected period during which the member will be mobilized.

Section 8116: has been amended and prohibits the use of funding to transfer or divest AH-64 Apache helicopters from the Army National Guard to the active Army with certain conditions.

Section 8127: Prohibits the use of funds to reduce end strength levels for the Army National Guard below the level specified in subtitle B of title IV of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

Section 9017: has been amended and provides funds for the operation and maintenance accounts of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force (including the National Guard and reserve components) to improve military readiness.

National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account

The House provided \$1.5 billion in total for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account in the OCO account.

(All Dollars in Thousands)

	FY15 President's Budget Request	HAC-D Mark	SAC Mark	Final Bill
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD		\$500,000		
AIR NATIONAL GUARD		\$500,000		

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

UH-60 Blackhawks – The bill includes \$147.6 million for ARNG UH-60 procurement in OCO.

HMMWVs – The bill includes \$100 million for ARNG HMMWV modernization

C-130s – The bill includes \$33.2 million for T-56 3.5 engine modifications, \$16 million for propeller upgrades and \$6 million for in-flight propeller balancing system.

F-16s – The bill provides \$50 million for ANG F-16 AESA radar integration RDT&E funding.

Counter-Drug – The bill includes an additional \$147.8 million for National Guard Counterdrug Program.

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION MATERIAL

In the report accompanying the House version of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015, the Committee directed that the Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense Account be divided into three separate sub-activity groups: counternarcotics support, the drug demand reduction program, and the National Guard counter-drug program. The Committee was disappointed when the fiscal year 2016 budget request only separated the funding request into sub-activity groups for counter-narcotics support and the drug demand reduction program. The Committee again separates the funding into three distinct lines to provide greater transparency and oversight of the program and its budget execution. Additionally, in lieu of formal reprogramming guidance and restrictions, the Committee directs the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Counter-narcotics and Global Threats) to provide written notification to the congressional defense committees not less than 15 days before transferring funding in excess of \$5,000,000 between any of the three lines. The Committee again directs the Secretary of Defense to request funding for each separate sub-activity group under the Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense account in the fiscal year 2017 and subsequent budget submissions.

Technicians – The bill includes a provision that prohibits funds made available in this Act from being used to reduce authorized positions for military technicians (dual status) of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, and Air Force Reserve unless such reductions are a direct result of a reduction in military force structure.

State Partnership Program: - The bill includes \$7 million for the State Partnership Program spread across ARNG and ANG accounts.

Yellow Ribbon – The bill includes \$1 million for the Yellow Ribbon Program

House Report 114-139

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

The Committee remains concerned by the pervasive problem of sexual assault in the military. While the Committee is encouraged that the Department of Defense has worked aggressively to sustain and enhance its prevention and response systems through programmatic initiatives and policy changes, the Committee has previously stated that in order to fully address this problem there must be a culture change that occurs at all levels of the military.

Federal law requires the Department of Defense to provide Congress an annual report on sexual assaults involving service members. After several years of highlighting sexual assault as a serious issue, the Committee believes that more action is necessary to systematically combat this unacceptable epidemic. In addition to the aforementioned report, the Committee directs the Director of the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Office to brief the House and Senate Appropriations Committees not later than 30 days after issuing the annual report on the initiatives it is implementing to reform how the military prevents, responds to, and adjudicates sexual assault cases, as well as the efforts underway to more effectively assess and address perceived retaliation towards victims who reported an incident of sexual assault that occurred during military service.

The Committee fully funds the budget request of \$263,325,000 for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response programs at the Service level and provides an additional \$20,000,000 for the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Office for transfer to the Services, including the National Guard and reserve components.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD END STRENGTH

The fiscal year 2016 budget request proposes reducing the Army National Guard end strength from 350,200 in fiscal year 2015 to 342,000 in fiscal year 2016 and reducing the levels of full time support personnel. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 established the National Commission on the Future of the Army, which will undertake a comprehensive study of the structure of the total Army to include a review of the size of the Army, force mixture, missions, force generation policies, and how the structure required to fulfill mission requirements is consistent with available resources. The Committee looks forward to receiving and reviewing those recommendations. In fiscal year 2016, the Committee recommends an additional \$178,101,000 for the Army National Guard military personnel and operation and maintenance accounts to restore end strength to fiscal year 2015 levels. The recommendation also includes a provision that prohibits the reduction of the Army National Guard end strength levels below the authorized fiscal year 2015 levels.

CYBER PROTECTION TEAMS

The Committee is encouraged that the Army National Guard plans to activate the first three of ten Army National Guard cyber protection teams in fiscal year 2016. The Committee directs the Director of the Army National Guard to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act which outlines the activation plan for all ten cyber protection teams.

REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT MISSIONS

The Air National Guard is a dual-use force whose missions include defending the homeland and supporting federal efforts. The Air National Guard finds itself in the unique position to support border operations with the recent growth of its Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) enterprise. Recognizing the dual-use nature of the Air National Guard, the Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act on the cost effectiveness of using Air National Guard units to conduct RPA missions along the border in support of the Department of homeland Security and the impact to Air National Guard training and readiness.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET EXECUTION DATA

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to continue to provide the congressional defense committees with quarterly budget execution data. Such data should be provided not later than 45 days after the close of each quarter of the fiscal year, and should be provided for each O-1 budget activity, activity group, and subactivity group for each of the active, defense-wide, reserve, and National Guard components. For each O-1 budget activity, activity group, and sub-activity group, these reports should include the budget request and actual obligation amount, the distribution of unallocated congressional adjustments to the budget request, all adjustments made by the Department in establishing the Base for Reprogramming (DD Form 1414) report, all adjustments resulting from below threshold reprogrammings, and all adjustments resulting from prior approval reprogramming requests.

C-130 AVIONICS MODERNIZATION

The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015 provided the Air Force with the flexibility to use funds previously appropriated for the C-130 Avionics Modernization Program to pursue a more limited scope program intended to satisfy safety and airspace access requirements for legacy C-130H aircraft. The Committee continues to support a phased approach that prioritizes these more immediate operability concerns while retaining options for further avionics modernization and intends that the \$33,962,000 provided in the Committee's recommendation be used in accordance with this approach.

E-8 JSTARS

The fiscal year 2016 budget request reverses the Air Force's prior decision to retire five operational E-8 JSTARS aircraft. The Committee notes that the Air Force has restored funding to address diminishing manufacturing source (DMS) issues for the primary mission equipment on these five aircraft. Since the Air Force's Next Generation JSTARS aircraft is not expected to achieve initial operating capability until 2023, one year later than previously projected, the Air Force will be operating the existing JSTARS fleet until well into the 2020s. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional

defense committees not later than 60 days after the submission of the fiscal year 2017 budget request that details how the Air Force will address global air traffic management mandates, as well as the potential degradation of mission performance due to projected DMS requirements, until the E-8 is replaced by the next Generation system.

FUTURE AIR DOMINANCE

The fiscal year 2016 budget request includes \$5,000,000 in the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy account for the Next Generation Fighter and \$8,830,000 in the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force account for the Next Generation Air Dominance program. With the submission of the budget request, the Department of Defense also announced the Aerospace Innovation Initiative (AII), described by the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics) as a new Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency-led program, in partnership with the Navy and Air Force, intended to develop technologies and address the risks associated with the air dominance platforms that will follow the F-35. While these efforts have been described publicly as “F-X”, “F/A-XX”, “sixth generation fighter”, or “X-plane”, the Committee understands these efforts not as a single-minded focus on acquisition of the next fighter aircraft, but as a consideration of the broader range of capabilities necessary to ensure air dominance in future conflicts, and supports these efforts as such.

The Committee understands that the Department will complete an AII technology transition plan by July 2015. The Committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics) to submit the transition plan to the congressional defense committees not later than September 30, 2015.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET EXECUTION DATA

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to continue to provide the congressional defense committees with quarterly budget execution data. Such data should be provided not later than 45 days after the close of each quarter of the fiscal year, and should be provided for each O-1 budget activity, activity group, and subactivity group for each of the active, defense-wide, reserve, and National Guard components. For each O-1 budget activity, activity group, and sub-activity group, these reports should include the budget request and actual obligation amount, the distribution of unallocated congressional adjustments to the budget request, all adjustments made by the Department in establishing the Base for Reprogramming (DD Form 1414) report, all adjustments resulting from below threshold re-programmings, and all adjustments resulting from prior approval reprogramming requests.

COOPERATION BETWEEN MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES, CIVILIAN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES, AND UNIVERSITIES

The Committee recognizes the importance of cooperation between military medical facilities, universities, and other civilian partners to provide valuable medical trauma training to sustain the education of military medical providers. This training and real-life experience contributes to maintain the capabilities of the National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Explosives Enhanced Response Force Packages, the National Guard Homeland Response Forces, and the Army Reserve Consequence Management Response Forces.

The Committee encourages the Service Surgeons General and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to continue to pursue trauma training with civilian partners in order to maintain unit medical readiness at optimum levels as military healthcare providers maintain their individual skills to respond effectively to emergency incidents. Additionally, the Committee supports the development of enhanced emergency preparedness medical training programs.

MILITARY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

The Committee has expressed its concern for the high number of suicides in the military for the last several years and has recognized the potential difficulties for members of the National Guard and reserve components to receive required treatment because they often do not live near military treatment facilities. It is encouraging that the Secretary of Defense created a pilot program to use community partnerships to improve treatment of service members suffering from mental health disorders in the National Guard and reserve components. The Committee encourages the Secretary of Defense to expand this program and to consider partnerships with entities that engage in research, treatment, education, and outreach activities for service members suffering from traumatic brain injuries and mental health disorders. Any additional community partners should be chosen through a competitive and merit-based award process.

READINESS

The agreement includes \$2,500,000,000 in title IX to be transferred to the operation and maintenance accounts and be divided among the Services and the National Guard and reserve components. Funding is to be distributed as follows: thirty-five percent to the Army, including seven percent to the Army Reserve and ten percent to the Army National Guard; thirty-three percent to the Navy, including the Navy Reserve; seven percent to the Marine Corps, including the Marine Corps Reserve; and twenty-five percent to the Air Force, including the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard.

This funding shall be used only to improve military readiness, specifically increased training, depot maintenance, and base operations support. Funding should be obligated only in readiness subactivity groups that fund training, depot maintenance, and base operations support within budget activity 1 "Operating Forces" or, for the Air Force only, budget activity 2 "Mobilization Forces". The Committee is concerned that in fiscal year 2015, some Services proposed to use readiness funds on named operations or to accelerate information technology requirements from future years rather than to build readiness. As such, none of the funds provided may be used to participate in named operations, and none of the funds provided may be used for recruiting, marketing, or advertising programs.

The funding provided is a congressional special interest item. The Secretary of Defense and the Service Secretaries are directed to submit a detailed spending plan by sub-activity group to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees not less than 30 days prior to the obligation of these funds. These transfers may be implemented 30 days after congressional notification unless an objection is received from either the House or Senate Appropriations Committees. Additional funds are also provided to the Army, Army Reserve, and the Army National Guard in their respective operation and maintenance accounts only for the purpose of restoring readiness.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT

The Committee recommends \$1,500,000,000 for National Guard and Reserve Equipment. Of that amount, \$500,000,000 is for the Army National Guard; \$500,000,000 is for the Air National Guard; \$315,000,000 is for the Army Reserve; \$70,000,000 is for the Navy Reserve; \$40,000,000 is for the Marine Corps Reserve; and \$75,000,000 is for the Air Force Reserve to meet urgent equipment needs that may arise this fiscal year. This funding will allow the National Guard and reserve components to procure high priority equipment that may be used by these units for both their combat missions and their missions in support of state governors. The funding within this account is not to be used to procure equipment that has been designated as high density critical equipment item, major weapon systems, aircraft, and other items of equipment central to a unit's ability to perform its doctrinal mission. The funding within this account is not to be used to procure equipment that should be purchased by the senior Service, to expand or accelerate current Service procurement plans increasing program risk borne by the reserve components, to purchase expendable items, or to purchase facilities or equipment for any requirement that can be satisfied elsewhere.

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the National Guard and Reserve Equipment account shall be executed by the Chiefs of the National Guard and reserve components with priority consideration given to the following items: acoustic hailing devices, large aircraft infrared countermeasures, advanced targeting pods, security and support mission equipment communications packages for UH-60 civil support communications, electromagnetic in-flight propeller balance system, joint threat emitter systems, data links in ground vehicles, upgrades for first responder radios, network wideband radios (including airborne terminals), training systems and simulators, wireless mobile mesh network technologies, integrated facial protection components for standard issue helmets, and laser protective eyewear.

A-10 AND CLOSE AIR SUPPORT

The Committee has carefully reviewed the Air Force's renewed request to divest the A-10 in a phased manner by 2019. The Air Force's need to modernize its shrinking and aging inventory of aircraft, when coupled with budget constraints in current law, has forced difficult decisions regarding force structure. The Committee acknowledges the A-10's combat-proven advantages in the close air support (CAS) mission, but when set against the broad range of missions that the Air Force is required to carry out under the National Defense Strategy, the ability of other aircraft to perform CAS, and valid concerns regarding the A-10's susceptibility to rapidly advancing anti-air threats in potential conflicts, divestment of the A-10 is the least unattractive option in the long run if the Air Force is to meet all of its national security responsibilities.

At the same time, the Committee recognizes that ongoing conflicts and contingency operations, a security environment that senior military leaders have described as highly uncertain, and continuing overseas deployments of A-10 squadrons raise questions of overall combat air forces capacity and whether it is prudent to proceed immediately with A-10 divestment. Due to these considerations, the Committee's recommendation includes an additional \$452,700,000 in title IX to preserve the present A-10 force structure. The Committee also includes a legislative provision that prohibits divestment of the A-10 or disestablishment of A-10 units in fiscal year 2016, as well as the further movement of A-10 aircraft to backup inventory status.

The Committee commends the Air Force for actions it has taken to preserve and enhance performance of the CAS mission. The Committee strongly supports these efforts and their continuation regardless of the disposition of the A-10 fleet in this and future fiscal years. In order to monitor the progress of Air Force efforts to sustain the CAS mission, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 60 days after the submission of the fiscal year 2017 budget request that describes the CAS policy initiatives stemming from the March 2015 "CAS Focus Week" hosted by Air Combat Command and the progress made in implementing these initiatives; presents a set of metrics by which CAS training can be tracked year-to-year; and describes efforts to identify new materiel solutions for CAS platforms and capabilities.

Finally, the Committee recognizes that CAS is, above all considerations including aircraft platforms, a team effort requiring seamless air-ground cooperation. The Committee recognizes the indispensable contribution by the Air Force's Battlefield Airmen community, including Tactical Air Control Party members, to the continuing excellence of CAS performance. The Committee's recommendation includes an additional \$55,900,000 in Other Procurement, Air Force for the acquisition of Joint Terminal Attack Controller training systems and Battlefield Airmen kits. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a spending plan to the congressional defense committees for these additional funds not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act.

GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS

General and Flag Officers (GFOs) are the leaders of the military Services. While the size of the military has decreased in recent years, the number of GFOs has not. The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014 reduced funding for GFOs and directed the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to provide a report to the congressional defense committees detailing all associated costs.

The GAO found that the GFO population experienced higher rates of growth since fiscal year 2001 than the enlisted population and that the full cost to the Department of Defense for GFOs from fiscal year 2001 through fiscal year 2013 could not be determined because complete cost data for GFOs and their aides is not available. Furthermore, the GAO noted that the position of officer aide is not defined in departmental guidance and, as a result, the Services were not able to consistently track the number of personnel in these positions. The GAO recommended that the Department update and improve information related to GFO aides and define the costs associated with GFOs. The Committee directs the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) and the Service Secretaries, to update GFO requirements and to define the costs associated with general and flag officers, including security details, government air travel, enlisted and officer aide housing costs, support staff, official residences, and any other costs incurred due to the nature of their position. Further, not later than 270 days after the enactment of this Act, the Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees outlining the updated GFO requirements and the number of GFOs needed to fill these positions, and describing the costs associated with GFOs, including officer and enlisted aides

MILITARY COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission recently provided the President and Congress specific recommendations to modernize military pay and benefits. The Committee is encouraged that the Commission provided recommendations that endeavor to ensure the long-term viability of the All-Volunteer Force, to support a high quality of life for service members and their families in a manner that fosters successful recruitment and retention, to support career opportunities for service members, and to modernize the compensation and retirement system of service members for fiscal sustainability. Among its recommendations, the Commission suggests moving from a purely defined benefit to a blended defined benefit and defined contribution retirement system. The Commission also outlined ways to sustain service member education programs, strength- en numerous family support programs, and promote service

members' financial literacy. While the Commission decided that its focus would not be budget driven, these recommendations offer changes that, if implemented, will impact government expenditures. Recognizing that there may be additional opportunities to identify efficiencies in personnel and force structure programs, the Committee looks forward to receiving the Secretary of Defense's response to these recommendations and to working with the Secretary to ensure pragmatic fiscal sustainability is achieved.

CIVILIAN FURLONGHS

In fiscal year 2013, the Secretary of Defense furloughed most Department of Defense civilian employees for up to six days due to budgetary shortfalls primarily caused by sequestration. The Committee believes that the negative impact on productivity, morale, and readiness substantially outweighed the savings generated from civilian furloughs. No furloughs were implemented in either fiscal year 2014 or fiscal year 2015, and the Committee assumes that the enactment of this Act will eliminate any need to furlough civilian employees in fiscal year 2016.

COMBAT TRAINING CENTER ROTATIONS

The Army has recently increased the length of combat training center rotations for active duty soldiers from 14 to 18 days. While the Army believes that the additional time will increase the effectiveness of the rotations, the increased length has reduced the throughput at the training centers from ten to nine rotations per year at the National Training Center and the Joint Readiness Training Center. Since these rotations are the pinnacle event to prepare soldiers for combat, the Committee supports efforts to make them as effective as possible. However, the Committee is concerned that the reduced number of rotations, which results in a reduced number of soldiers being trained, may outweigh the benefits gained by the additional number of training days per rotation. The Committee is also concerned that the Army did not conduct a full analysis prior to this decision and therefore was unaware that increasing the number of days per rotation would require a reduction in the total number of rotations held each year. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 120 days after the enactment of this Act that provides a detailed evaluation of the decision to increase combat training center rotation lengths for active duty soldiers, a full cost-benefit analysis of the decision to increase rotation lengths, and an analysis of how reducing the number of rotations impacts readiness.